

| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Response to Rule 312 Communication | 10/596,242 | ASAKURA ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Nathan M. Nutter | 1796 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. The amendment filed on 31 December 2009 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- a) entered.
- b) entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c) disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.
Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.
- d) disapproved. See explanation below.
- e) entered in part. See explanation below.

Attachment: Information Disclosure Statement 31 December 2009

/Nathan M. Nutter/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796